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Don't let sickness cramp Christmas

- ▶ **AHS gives tips to stop Norovirus from spreading over holidays**
- ▶ **Those with symptoms urged to avoid hospitals, seniors' homes**

To avoid giving a gift that keeps on giving this Christmas, Alberta Health Services is warning people to wash their hands in the wake of a rash of city Norovirus cases.

"Christmas is a great time for friends and family to get together, a lot of us travel, and there's opportunity and sometimes higher risks

associated with travelling and increased contact," said Dr. Chris Sikora, Edmonton zone medical officer of health.

Since November, 64 "clusters," or groups, have been infected or suspected of infection in the Edmonton area.

"This year we have had more

numbers of more of these clusters as compared to previous years," explained Sikora.

He urged Edmontonians to wash their hands before and after using the bathroom, prior to preparing food, and to avoid those who exhibit gastrointestinal symptoms.

● **SHELLEY WILLIAMSON**

Norovirus 101

- ▶ Norovirus causes gastrointestinal illness, lasting 24 to 72 hours for most people, and if it persists AHS advises seeing a physician or calling Health Link at 1-866-408-5465.
- ▶ To prevent infection wash hands often, especially while providing care to someone who is ill or after handling dirty laundry and before handling food.

Hard. Place



▶ The Edmonton Oilers' Corey Potter and Minnesota Wild's Warren Peters crash into linesman Lonnie Cameron Thursday in Edmonton.

JOHN ULAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilers score four to end four-game skid

Jordan Eberle scored a pair of goals as the Edmonton Oilers snapped a four-game losing skid in impressive fashion, defeating the Minnesota Wild 4-1 on Thursday. For more, see page 36.

Highway shootings

Funeral held

- ▶ **Baseball-themed memorial in P.E.I. for young man killed near Claresholm {page 4}**

Layton at the top

Late NDP leader
Canada's
newsmaker of
year {page 10}



1 news



Hold on tight to your significant other, because experts say 'tis the season to be jilted. Scan code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

A driver has a terrifying near miss with a jack-knifing transport truck on a Russian highway. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Edmonton's top stories of the year

Homicides. Edmonton shattered its own record with 45 homicides, stretching police to the limit.

Arena. Council gave a new downtown arena the thumbs up. Although \$100 million still needs to be found, land has been purchased and a design is underway.

Indy. After cancelling the event late in 2010, the city signed a deal with Octane Motorsports in January to host it through 2013.

Snow. Last winter led to the revamping of the city's snow policy. More equipment was purchased and a seasonal parking ban was put into place — first enacted in November.

Occupy. Protesters set up camp in a private park downtown on Oct. 15 and were booted by police Nov. 25. They have vowed to set up again in 2012.

Airport. Vancouver firm Perkins + Will was picked from five finalists in June to redevelop the City Centre Airport lands into a sustainable community for 30,000 over the next decade.

Museum. After yanking \$92 million from a new Royal Alberta Museum, the federal government gave back the funds weeks later.

Transit. Metro revealed in April that transit from the city to the EIA was back on the table. A March 2012 start was approved late this year. Council approved a 5.4 per cent tax hike since 4.5 per cent meant cutting everything from transit hours to flower planting.

● HEATHER MCINTYRE



► A lot of things happened under the pyramids at city hall this year — and many of them will continue to move forward in 2012, councillors say.

City's downtown was a major focus of 2011

- The year brought 'renewed focus' to transforming the area: Official
- Potential for city charter on councillors' radar heading into 2012



HEATHER MCINTYRE
@METRONEWS.CA

Some major issues and projects city councillors discussed throughout 2011 will be hot topics again come the new year.

The downtown arena will carry into 2012 as the design is underway and the wait remains to find the unfunded \$100 million.

"I think regardless of how people feel about the arena or the deal behind it, I think we made a lot of progress with downtown in general," Coun. Don Iveson said Thursday, adding proj-

ects completed, underway and proposed have brought a "renewed focus" to the city's core.

Coun. Bryan Anderson agreed, noting work planned for the Quarters area and the selection of a firm to redevelop the City Centre Airport lands.

"Over the next 10 years, I think we'll find that's something major that will also help to define the downtown area," he said.

The three-year capital budget approved recently also sets the stage for much-needed LRT work, said Coun. Amarjeet Sohi.

A new year

1 Councillors Amarjeet Sohi and Don Iveson said one of the biggest items on tap for 2012 is the potential for a change in the way municipalities are funded.

2 Iveson said he is pleased by "positive" and "intelligent" talks, which he hopes will provide more

power and autonomy to Alberta's major cities.

3 Sohi said Edmonton has to rely too heavily on property taxes when it comes to funding services and infrastructure, and hopes a new agreement can transform the relationship with the province.

The north line got underway this year, and plans are moving forward for the southeast line.

It's about "continuing to build the city Edmontonians want us to build," said Sohi.



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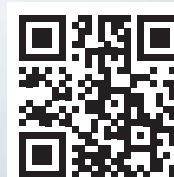
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ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

► Members of the Lethbridge Bulls baseball team head past the hearse carrying teammate Mitch MacLean at his funeral at Winsloe United Church in Winsloe, P.E.I., on Thursday.

Highway shooting victim laid to rest

► Mitch MacLean killed in Claresholm murder-suicide

The mother of a young man who was gunned down at the side of a highway in Alberta read a poem to her son at his funeral Thursday that included lines recalling home run glory.

Dianne MacLean spoke to about 600 people at the funeral — many of them ball players wearing team caps and holding baseballs — as Mitch's father Irwin, also a baseball player and a coach, gently held her.

Her poem titled Last Time at the Plate described Mitch's battle with a pitcher that ends with him stroking a fast ball into the bleachers and rounding the bases into the arms of his teammates.

MacLean's verse made

Teammates

► **MacLean and Tanner Craswell**, who was 22 and also from P.E.I., were baseball players studying at Lethbridge College.

► **They played for the Lethbridge Bulls**, who sent a delegation of players to help carry their teammate's casket.

mourners smile as she took a playful dig at an umpire. It ended with a heartrending farewell to her son.

"The game is now over. You must pack up your gear. We know you'll keep playing. It's just not going to be here," MacLean said.

"Love you, Mitchie," she

said as many in the congregation — including dozens of former teammates from Alberta and Prince Edward Island — wept openly.

The funeral for MacLean, who was 20, was held in a United Church on the outskirts of Charlottetown.

He was one of four young people shot last week by Derek Jensen, just north of the town of Claresholm, before Jensen killed himself.

Police have said the shootings were motivated by Jensen's recent breakup with a young woman in the vehicle, Tabitha Stepple, who was remembered at a funeral service on Wednesday in Lethbridge.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Edmonton's charity' seeks the giving spirit

The Christmas Bureau's Walk-in Days event is a last chance for the less fortunate to get food and gifts for the holidays.

And long lineups at the two-day event won't deter some 1,200 needy families,

Christmas help

► Clients receive Christmas help with a Sobeys gift certificate, toy for kids under 12, and gift card for 13- to 17-year-olds.

► The Christmas Bureau, now in its 71st year with 80 referring agencies, serves 70,000 Edmontonians each year.

► The bureau has hit 65 per cent of this year's donation target of \$1.8 million, running about \$500,000 short of the goal.

► Donations can be made at Christmasbureau.ca or by texting 45678christmas. You can also give at city malls, fire halls, and at any Servus Credit Union or ATB Financial.



LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

► Christmas Bureau volunteer Ashley works as a toy-runner for Walk-in days.

seniors and singles.

A shoulder injury six weeks ago, and a subsequent wait for medical employment insurance, has meant that Ken, Cindy and their five-year-old daughter are in need of Christmas help for gifts and a holiday meal.

"It's very appreciated. Edmonton is a giving city," said the Saskatchewan-born Ken, picking up a child's gift courtesy of Santos Anonymous after a one-

hour wait.

"This is Edmonton's charity," agreed Dick Frenz, board chair of the Christmas Bureau, who admitted the agency is struggling for donations this year.

"I don't know if the warm weather has put people out of the Christmas spirit or if it's the recession, but we're not likely to meet this year's target, and that may mean cutbacks next year."

● LUCY HAINES

Man faces charges following \$3.7M school fire

Edmonton police have arrested a man after a Nov.

30, 2007, fire at Delwood Elementary School that caused \$3.7 million in damage.

Police said a 24-year-old man came forward Monday and turned himself in.

The man has been charged with break-and-enter to commit mischief and arson.

Det. Rick Martens of the

EPS major crimes unit said the arrest, aided by forensic evidence, means peace of mind for many.

"It created a lot of fear in the community. A lot of students had to be driven to schools outside the community," said Martens.

The accused is slated for court Jan. 5, 2012, Martens added.

● SHELLEY WILLIAMSON

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THE COST

Crashes have big price tags

Across the country in 2008, the last year statistics on drunk driving crashes was available, impairment-related crashes caused 1,162 deaths in Canada, 68,538 injuries, and damaged 226,522 vehicles, according to MADD

Canada.

That year, 196,845 crashes cost \$21.6 billion, while Alberta's portion came in around \$3 billion.

From 1999 to 2008, Canadian traffic crashes involving alcohol and drugs, including 487,952 injury accidents and more than 1.5-million property-damage accidents, caused more than 10,000 deaths.

For that price tag of \$205 billion, each Canadian's share is \$6,221.

● SHELLEY WILLIAMSON

Drunk driving deaths still plague Alberta

In 2008, Alberta had the second-highest number of impaired driving fatalities, according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving statistics for the last year data was available.

Of 1,162 people killed by impaired driving crashes, 201 were in this province.

Susan Semotiuk, who does outreach work with MADD to impaired driving offenders and victims, said the message of the perils of drunk driving is still falling short.

She hesitates using statistics, because those numbers represent lives lost.

3.7 According to 2008 stats, MADD estimates impaired driving kills 3.7 to 4.4 people a day nationwide.

"There's a lot of people who should be here, but they're not because of drinking and driving or drugs," said Semotiuk, pointing to a wall of photos in the organization's office of people who died at the hands of someone driving while impaired.

One of smiling faces on the wall is her four-year-old grandson, Mikey.

● METRO

'He was only four years old and didn't deserve to die'

▶ Susan Semotiuk holds a photo of her grandson, Michael, who was killed by a drunk driver on Good Friday in 1998.

▶ Grandmother devoting life to keeping grandson's memory alive

In the final instalment of a five-part impaired driving series, Metro looks at how driving after drinking affects its victims.



SHELLEY WILLIAMSON
@METRONWS.CA

For the 13th year in a row, Susan Semotiuk will place the presents she bought for her grandson Michael on his headstone instead of under the Christmas tree.

On April 11, 1998, Michael, or Mikey as he was called, was killed when a drunk driver ran a stop sign, T-boning the car the boy and his parents were travelling in.

"The guy was 31 years old and had a fight with his girlfriend, and grabbed her keys," Semotiuk said of the driver who caused the deadly Leduc crash.

"(Michael) would have been 18 this year," she said, through tears.

Her daughter still suffers from AC joint and hip injuries suffered in the crash.

The victims

▶ MADD Canada created an online victims' page for personalized tributes, so people can leave a testament to loved ones (maddcanada.ca/tributes).

She's had two more sons, but never forgets how her first son's life was cut tragically short.

Both women now channel their grief into working for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), trying to spread word of the risks of drinking and driving.

"It just brings that day up all over again, but I won't quit. I'm his voice now," said Susan.

Michael would have had two younger brothers, aged 7 and 5, who don't understand why their big brother isn't around, said Susan.

"It was so senseless. His brothers will never get to know him."

On Bill 26

Susan Semotiuk, who lost her grandson, 4, to a drunk driver in 1998, lauds stiffer provincial

legislation for impaired drivers.

"It's going to make our lives better because we're all sharing the roads," she said. ● METRO

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► Staff Sgt. Deb Jolly of the EPS sexual-assault section speaks to reporters at police headquarters.

Man charged in assault on senior

► EPS members affected by brutal nature of attack: Staff Sgt. ► Police believe break-in and assault on 79-year-old woman was targeted



SHELLEY WILLIAMSON
@METRONEWS.CA

A man has been arrested after a brutal attack on an elderly woman as she slept

in her home in Parkdale last month.

Staff Sgt. Deb Jolly, of the Edmonton Police Service's sexual-assault section, said the woman, 79, is "forever changed" after

the violent assault in her home early on Nov. 29.

"She's still very shaken. Her life is not the same," Jolly said.

Police released a sketch of a suspect just after the break-in. At that time they were unsure if the assault was motivated by robbery or something else.

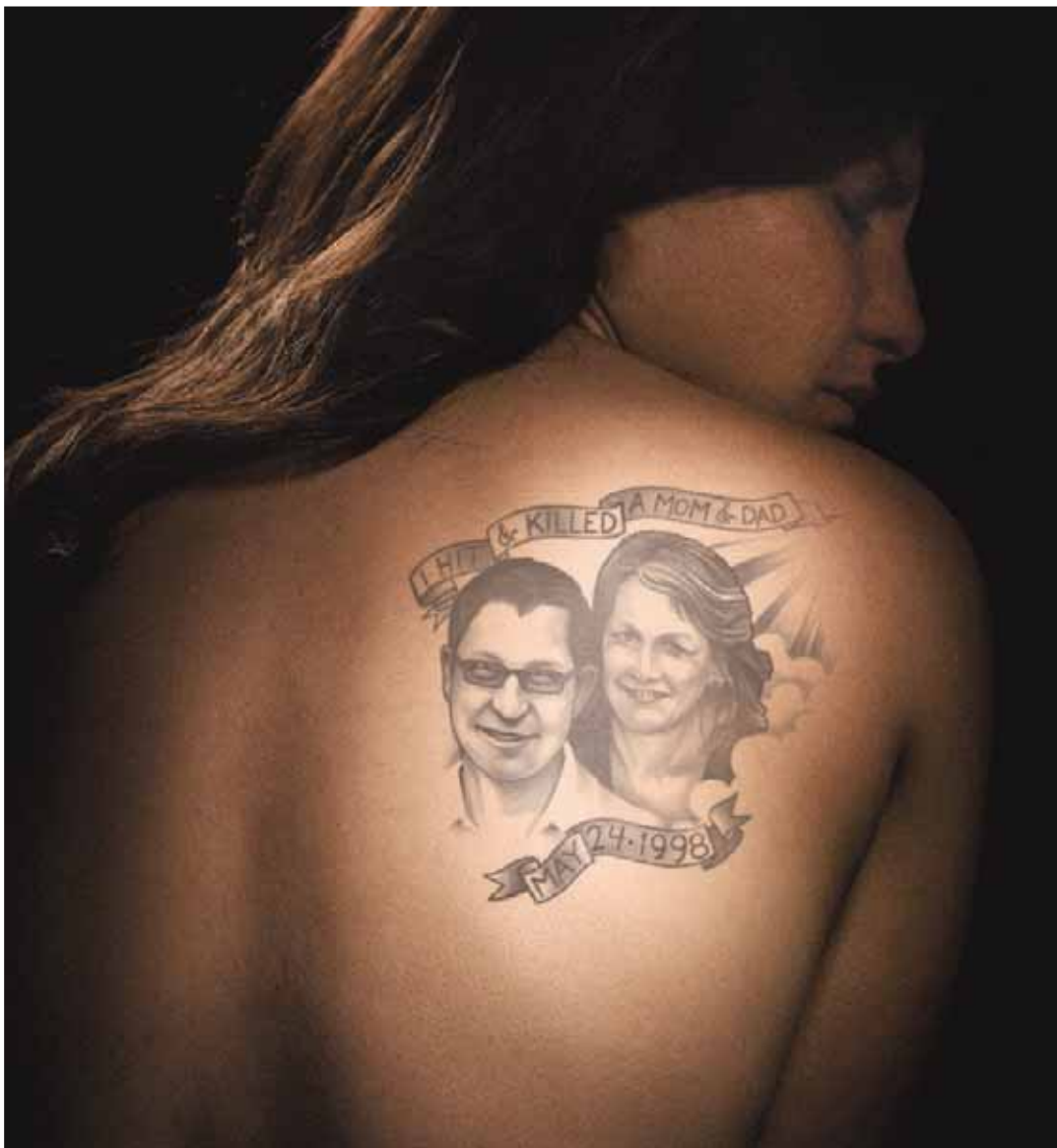
Jolly said police now believe the attack, which included sexual assault, was "targeted."

She said the victim has been told of the arrest and is relieved.

"We hope it will bring a sense of community back to Parkdale," Jolly said.

Gabriel Dale Cardinal, 36, is charged with sexual assault causing bodily harm, unlawful confinement, overcoming resistance to commit an offence and theft under \$5,000.

He is scheduled for a court appearance on Jan. 9.



THE CONSEQUENCES STAY WITH YOU FOREVER. MAKE IT STOP. DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.

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Christmas. Wheels



► Millwoods Suzuki and Millwoods Town Centre hosted a draw on Wednesday for two Suzuki SX4 vehicles. Millwoods Suzuki's Jessie Prihar, left, was on hand to present the good news to the winners, Pankaj Bilandani, centre, and Ervin Betke.

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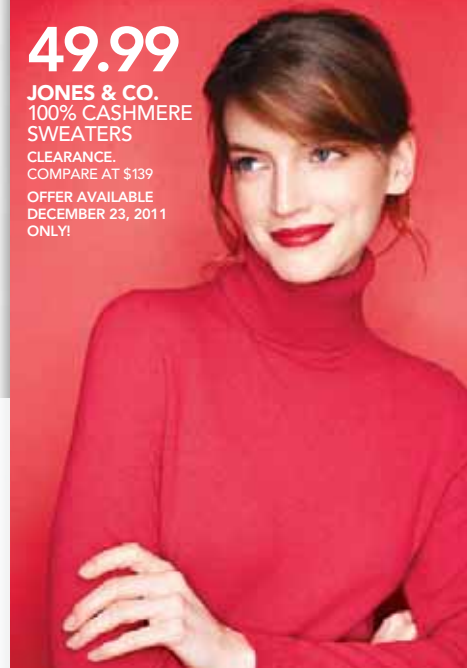
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Layton is Canada's Newsmaker of the Year

► Late NDP leader won overwhelming majority of votes in two surveys — one by editors and news directors and another by the public online

John Gilbert Layton wore dozens of different name tags in his decades of public service: activist, guitarist, father and, finally, leader of the official Opposition.

Most knew the NDP leader by another name: Jack.

No other Canadian dominated the headlines like Layton in 2011, making him the clear choice for Newsmaker of the Year by editors and news directors participating in the annual survey of newsrooms across the country by The Canadian Press.

Layton received 90 per cent of the votes — one of the most overwhelming margins in the 65-year history of the CP Newsmaker voting. The next closest was Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who received just five per cent of the vote totals.

Also earning votes were Canada's new female premiers, the protesters at the heart of the Occupy Canada movement, former auditor general Sheila Fraser and the Grande Prairie Composite Warriors football team.

"Jack Layton single-handedly shaped Canada's political narrative in 2011, from the decimation of the Bloc Québécois, to the marginalization of the Liberal party, to the utter vacuum left on Parliament



► No other Canadian dominated the headlines like Jack Layton in 2011.

Hill by his death," said Brodie Fenlon, senior news editor, The Huffington Post Canada.

"We watched the drama of this scrappy underdog, cane in hand, pulling off an astonishing victory only to be felled months later before he could truly make something of it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cherry a distant second

- Layton claimed half of the online votes cast, with hockey commentator Don Cherry a distant second at 16 per cent. Prime Minister Stephen Harper garnered 10 per cent of the vote, narrowly edging the Occupy Canada protesters at 9.5 per cent.
- Stratford, Ont., pop sensation Justin Bieber, who made tabloid headlines earlier this year when a fan named him in a paternity suit that she later dropped, rounded out the top five with 3.4 per cent of the vote.

Chretien gets \$200,000 compensation

The Federal Court has ordered the government to pay \$200,000 each to former Liberal prime minister Jean Chretien and his late chief of staff — compensation for some of the legal costs they racked up fighting the findings of an inquiry into the sponsorship scandal.

The lump-sum payments, awarded last week by Judge Francois Lemieux, are the last chapter in a drawn-out court battle Chretien and Jean Pelletier waged against Justice John Gomery and the report he wrote on the scandal in 2005.

Pelletier died in 2009 due to complications from

colon cancer, but his estate continued to pursue the case in court.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's parliamentary secretary said the decision was disappointing, and that most Canadians would find the award "distasteful." The Conservatives have long called on the Liberal party to pay back \$43 million in missing taxpayer funds.

"That's stolen money that should have been repaid, and certainly it's our position that Jean Chretien should repay that \$200,000 to Canadians," said Dean Del Mastro. "It's stolen money, and I don't think Canadians have forgotten about it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IMPAIRED DRIVING

Excuses that folks make ...

"I'm driving my drunk friends home. I've had less than all of them." That's one of the top excuses police have heard from impaired drivers this month.

The Insurance Corporation of B.C. put together the list to caution people on the best way to ensure a safe trip home from a holiday party.

"I can't be drunk ...

I'm the designated driver!" won't cut it, and neither will the other excuses police have heard: "I've only had a couple," "I can hold my liquor" and "I was only going two blocks."

ICBC says even a small amount of alcohol can cause impairment, and no matter how close a person is to home, they should think twice about drinking and driving.

The company says CounterAttack roadblocks will be up across the province during the holidays and no excuse will work if a person is driving while impaired.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canada's top 10 weather stories

► Devastating floods and fires lead Environment Canada's list of biggest weather events of 2011

Fires and floods of almost biblical proportions that forced thousands from their homes and cut a swath of destruction through several communities took a heavy toll on

Canadians this year, says one of the country's lead climatologists.

While those disasters weren't as deadly as the Japanese tsunami or the violent weather that battered

the U.S., they wore down Canadians and cost the country billions, said David Phillips, senior climatologist with Environment Canada, who released his list of the top 10 weather stories of 2011 Thursday.

"We were getting our own fair share of misery, hardship and misfortune from the weather," he said.

"There have been tough years but I think this one, in many ways, has been difficult from an expensive point of view and the extreme aspect of it."

The floods that swamped parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba were "unprecedented on so many fronts," placing them in the top spot, Phillips said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weather's top 10

- 1** Historic floods in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- 2** Wildfires at Slave Lake, Alta.
- 3** Richelieu River floods in Quebec.
- 4** Challenging growing season for farmers.
- 5** Tornado in Goderich, Ont.
- 6** Hurricanes in Atlantic region.
- 7** Summer a mixed bag of weather
- 8** Arctic sea ice near record low.
- 9** Groundhog Day blizzard.
- 10** High winds rip through southern Alberta.

Stranded woman ate candy bars

A U.S. university student said she had nothing to eat but two candy bars while her car was stuck in the snow for nine days in a remote area of Arizona.

Lauren Weinberg, 23, was seen leaving her mother's home Dec. 11. Coconino County sheriff's spokesman Gerry Blair said she was driving around with no destination when she came to a dirt road near cliffs that divide the state's high country from the desert. Her car became stuck after she stopped to try to open a gate.

Weinberg told a sheriff's deputy she put snow in a water bottle and placed it on the car so it would melt, Blair said.

She did not have a heavy coat or blankets. She had a cellphone but the battery was dead.

Two U.S. Forest Service employees found her nine days later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil. Fire



► A firefighter rescues a dog from a fire in the shantytown Favela do Moinho in Sao Paulo.

ANDRE PENNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shantytown blaze

The fire started on Thursday in a vacant building and spread to the shantytown where about 200 homes were destroyed and one person was found dead, according to local media reports.

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Spanish lotto win gives tiny town needed boost

► One cash-strapped town has won the world's biggest lottery, raking in a combined \$940M US ► The top prize was split between 1,800 ticket holders

A tiny town of 2,000 in cash-strapped Spain found itself richer by \$940 million US on Thursday after scooping the top prize in the country's famed Christmas lottery.

Billed as the world's richest, the lottery dishes out some \$3.29 billion to winners across the country.

The top prize — dubbed El Gordo (The Fat One) — was split among the holders of tickets bearing the number 58268. The number appeared on 1,800 tickets, giving winners \$522,000 for their \$26 ticket.

The state lottery agency

said all 1,800 tickets with that number were sold in the town of Granen, located in the arid and barren northeastern Los Monegros area.

The news brought the town's residents out onto the street to dance, sing, hug each other and spray sparkling wine all over.

"It's brilliant!" Pilar Azagra, who runs the town's lottery store, told Spanish National Television. She appeared a bit stunned. "I haven't had time to react, the number came out and then people started flocking to the shop," she said, adding that many in her

family had bought tickets.

Azagra said the windfall was more than welcome as several companies in Granen had closed because of the economic crisis forcing many residents to seek employment in neighbouring towns and cities.

Spain is struggling to emerge from a near two-year recession that has left it with a eurozone-high 21.5 per cent unemployment rate.

Other lotteries have larger individual top prizes but El Gordo is ranked as the world's richest for the total sum paid out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lotto facts

► The Christmas lottery aims for a share-the-wealth system, rather than a single jackpot, and thousands of numbers yield at least some kind of return.

► Since it began in 1812, the Dec. 22 lottery has become a favourite holiday tradition.

► Spain holds another big lottery Jan. 6 to mark the Feast of the Epiphany. It is known as El Nino (The Child), in reference to the baby Jesus.

ALVARO BARRIENTOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



News in pictures

PHOTOS
1. TIM IRELAND/PA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
2. JEREMY PAPASSO/THE DAILY CAMERA
/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
3. CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
4. ALIK KEPLICZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



1 People watch the sunrise at the northern winter solstice celebration at Stonehenge in Wiltshire on Dec. 22.

2 Darragh O'Neill, 20, shovels snow into the face of his dog Kerry in Louisville, Colo., after a snowstorm cancelled dozens of flights.

3 In this photo, Bernice Bates, 92, (the world's oldest yoga teacher) teaches yoga at Mainlands Retirement Community Center in Florida.

4 People gather in front of the Palace of Culture and Science to celebrate Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, in Warsaw, Poland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bombers strike blow to Baghdad

► Tensions rise in Iraq as attacks, mere days after U.S. forces leave, threaten stability in war-torn country

KARIM KADIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Iraqi security forces and people gather at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on Thursday.

A wave of 16 bombings ripped across Baghdad Thursday, killing at least 69 people in the worst violence in Iraq for months. The apparently co-ordinated attacks struck days after the last American forces left the country and in the midst of a major government crisis between Shiite and Sunni politicians that has sent sectarian tensions soaring.

The bombings may be linked more to the U.S. withdrawal than the political crisis, but all together, the developments heighten fears of a new round of Shiite-Sunni sec-

tarian bloodshed like the one a few years back that pushed Iraq to the brink of civil war.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the bombings bore all the hallmarks of al-Qaida's Sunni insurgents. Most appeared to hit Shiite neighbourhoods, although some Sunni areas were also targeted.

In all, 11 neighbourhoods were hit by either car bombs, roadside blasts or sticky bombs attached to cars. There was at least one suicide bombing and the blasts went off over several hours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly attack

- The deadliest attack was in the Karrada neighbourhood, where a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the office of a government agency.
- At least 14 blasts went off in the morning and two more in the evening.
- Two police officers at the scene said the bomber was driving an ambulance and told guards that he needed to get to a nearby hospital. After the guards let him through, he drove to the building where he blew himself up, the officers said.

France's genocide bill upsets Turkey

French lawmakers easily passed a measure Thursday to make it a crime to deny the mass killings of Armenians in 1915 by Ottoman Turks amounted to genocide. Turkey swiftly retaliated, ordering its ambassador home and halting official contacts. Turkey officials also suspended joint military manoeuvres and restricted French military flights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friend or foe?

- Turkey, a NATO member, is a strategic ally of France and valued trading partner, and the moves diminish ties at a particularly crucial time. Paris and Ankara are both deeply involved in international issues from the uprising in Syria to Afghanistan.

Israel drops Gaza flotilla charges

Israel's attorney general has decided not to prosecute Israelis who participated in a Gaza-bound flotilla that was raided a year ago.

The suspects included an Israeli-Arab lawmaker and an Islamist leader.

Nine pro-Palestinian Turkish activists were killed when Israeli naval commandos stormed the Gaza-bound ships.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hitch. Hiker



► A man tries to catch a ride to Namur, Belgium, while trade-union members block a main boulevard in Brussels on Thursday. A 24-hour pre-Christmas public-sector strike to protest pension reform hit rail, road and bus traffic across Belgium.

GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protest hinders holiday travellers

Holiday strikes to protest austerity measures paralyzed ground traffic in Belgium, delayed flights in Paris and promised days of headaches for Christmas travellers around Europe.

\$1,000 The domain names cost taxpayers nearly \$1,000 to hold for two years.

Saskatoon scoops .xxx domains

The City of Saskatoon has bought six Internet domain names ending in .xxx, created earlier this year for the adult entertainment industry. The city says it's all about protecting its brand and image. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

TSX regulator plans to expedite enforcement

► Ottawa can have national regulator with support of all provinces ► Quebec, Alberta and B.C. not on board

Canada's largest stock market watchdog is moving ahead with plans to speed up enforcement and says it will be business as usual with other provinces after the Supreme Court scrapped a planned national securities regulator.

Ontario Securities Commission chairman Howard Wetston said Thursday the regulator is focused on the best interests of its own investors and companies, though it will review a Supreme Court ruling that quashed the federal plan.





The regulator of Canada's dominant stock exchange — the TSX — has been developing new rules aimed at speeding up enforcement for securities law cases such as insider trading that drag on for years.

"We are currently dealing with important policy, enforcement, market infrastructure and other matters that will require our full commitment," Wetston said in a statement.

The Supreme Court turned down Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's plan as unconstitutional, which effectively puts an end to a years-long push for a unified body to oversee capital markets. But the court acknowledged Ottawa has a role in addressing systemic risk to the financial system.

Ontario supported the idea of a national regulator as home to the TSX. Several provinces said they would work to strengthen the current passport system where participating provinces recognize securities filings in

Market moment

TSX	Dollar
	
+ 122.95 (11,876.48)	+ 0.45¢ (97.93¢ US)
OIL	Natural gas
	
+ 86¢ US (\$99.53 US)	\$3.169 US (+ 1.00¢ US)
	Gold
	\$1,610.60 US (- \$3.00 US)

other jurisdictions.

Canada is the only country in the G20 without a national securities regulator.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

EU debt crisis ups German immigration

ACROSS BORDERS. Recent figures show that immigration to Germany from countries hard hit by Europe's economic woes rose sharply in the first six months of the year.

The statistical office says the number of Greek citizens moving to Germany rose by 84 per cent to about 8,900, while the number of Spaniards from January to June rose 49 per cent to 7,250.

The agency says a total of 381,000 foreigners moved to Germany, among them about 250,000 citizens from the European Union — an increase of 29 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earnings up across Canada

PAYCHECKS. Average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees increased 1.4 per cent to

\$885.36 in October.

Statistics Canada reports average weekly earnings were up 2.7 per cent from a year earlier.

The agency says the average work week was unchanged from October 2010 at 33 hours.

Average weekly earnings rose in every province in the 12 months to October, led by growth in Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Debt, house prices threaten economy: IMF

RECOVERY. A combination of high household debt, overpriced housing and external economic problems are putting Canada's recovery at risk, the International Monetary Fund is warning. The most serious risk is the global environment, particularly the potential for Europe's sovereign debt issues to spiral out of control.

Household debt is 153 per cent of disposable income in the latest data and, the IMF says, Canadian homes are on average 10 per cent overpriced.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consumers reluctant to make major purchases

The Conference Board of Canada's latest consumer confidence numbers are back to where they were around the height of the 2008-2009 recession, a troubling sign of what's to come for the economy in 2012.

The Ottawa think-tank said Thursday its Index of Consumer Confidence posted a 6.5-point drop in December, bringing 2011 to a "disappointing" close and signalling further belt-tightening by Canadians.

The board uses a 2002 base of 100, which reflects how Canadians feel about the economy, job creation, future major purchases and their personal finances. It said opinion eroded on all four questions, but responses to the major-purchases question were particularly gloomy. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

69.9 At 69.9, the index is at its lowest point in more than two-and-a-half years, down 11.1 from where it was at the end of 2010.

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PIPPA AND PERILS OF 2011

THE METRO LIST

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1 Royal wedding: Two billion people watched Will and Kate tie the knot — and Pippa Middleton's derriere become world famous.

2 Steve Jobs: The visionary Apple co-founder died at age 56, having led a dramatic cultural and technological transformation.

3 Lindsay Lohan: Lohan salvaged a terrible year with the law — and her career — by appearing on Playboy's bestselling cover (which also made Playboy relevant again).

4 Lady Gaga: She arrived at the Grammys being carried in a huge egg. Which is what you do when you're trying really hard to be cool.

5 Ashton Kutcher & Demi Moore: They break up — and in keeping with relationship etiquette in the Social Media Age, unfollow each other on Twitter.

6 Kim Kardashian: The woman famous for no reason has a marriage that only lasts 72 days for some reason. Oh yeah — it was her naked yoga instructor.

7 Weinergate: Congressman Anthony Weiner tweets a photo of his penis by mistake, resulting in countless "wiener" jokes, a scandal — and, naturally, his resignation.

8 Margaret Atwood: A public feud between Atwood and Toronto city Coun. Doug Ford (Mayor Rob's older bro) leads to a cheeky "Atwood for Mayor" campaign.

9 Amy Winehouse: Joins the "27 club," a group of seminal musicians like Kurt Cobain, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison who died at age 27.

10 Martha Stewart: Martha Stewart tweets, "Do you think I am hip?" That's one of the tweets of the year.

11 Kate Gosselin: Her reality show is cancelled, and her kids now live in peace. As one blog noted, "(The kids) know not the craven greed machine they were plugged into."

12 Tim Tebow: The devout Christian NFL QB with an unorthodox throwing style who people keep saying will fail just keeps winning. And Tebowmania and "Tebowing" goes viral.

13 Charlie Sheen: After getting fired from Two and a Half Men, the troubled Sheen launches a bizarre Violent Torpedo of Truth tour. Thankfully, he's off whatever Kool-Aid he was on.

14 @bronzzoocobra: A cobra escapes a zoo and someone creates a hilarious Twitter account that goes viral, tweeting its time on the run. (Other awesome Twitter accounts like @S-tGirlsSay also go viral this year.)

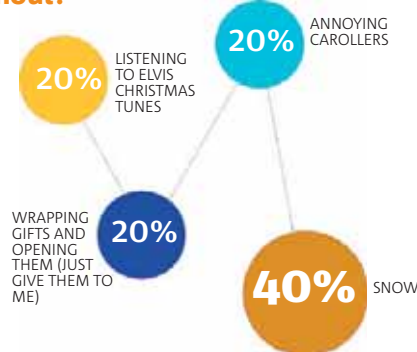
15 Piers Morgan: Morgan replaces the legendary Larry King on CNN but has the makings of a legend himself with his intelligent hardball-with-a-cheeky-grin Q & A style.

16 Kissing Couple: During the riots in Vancouver post-NHL final, an image of a couple lying on a tear-gas-filled street having a tender kiss gets circulated around the world — becoming one of 2011's iconic images.



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What holiday tradition could you do without?



Local tweets



@LadyHardcore: Missed the bus by 10

secs because the stupid train driver decided to stop and chat. MAD. #YEG #ETS

@KikkiPlanet: Imma go wallow in some Christmas joy on the streets with my kids. Something about #yeg just seems so much brighter this evening!

@ThatGuyKage: Back in #yeg - hello blue skies and real hockey fans!

@Steve_Curtis10: So instead of going to the

#Oilers game tonight, I am going to a dinner to welcome @JillKCurtis grandparents to #yeg #sacrifice

@TervorBoller: Why is day before #Christmas synonymous with washing your car? #yeg

@confessionality: Tomorrow's Lotto Max is \$50 Million. And when I win, I will throw the biggest party #yeg has ever seen.

@ChadOhman: With all the people complaining about drivers you would think traffic #yegtraffic would get better. My mistake for being hopeful.

The karate keeper



Goalie and 'fan' clash on pitch

AMSTERDAM. Film buffs will say he took those moves straight out of 2001 martial arts/sports movie mashup Shaolin Soccer. This striking image shows goalie Esteban Alvarado Brown of AZ Alkmaar retaliate as he is attacked by a football hooligan during the Dutch cup match between Ajax and AZ Alkmaar.

● METRO WORLD NEWS

"He walked to (the hooligan) and kicked him multiple times."

BAS NIJHUIS, REFEREE, ON WHY HE SENT OFF ALVARADO



How the kung fu soccer unfolded

TIMELINE. The drunk Ajax "fan," 19, invaded the pitch and launched a flying kick toward the Costa Rican goalkeeper. Alvarado lashed out a series of his own kicks before security dragged the supporter away. After the goalie was given a red card for misconduct, Alkmaar's angry coach Gertjan Verbeek ordered his team to leave the pitch. ● METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (@neilmorton).



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Synopsis

Since first being published in December 1843 Charles Dickens's story of Ebenezer Scrooge's emotional transformation from hoarder to Ho Ho-er has been presented in many forms. A Christmas Carol has been adapted into opera, ballet, a Broadway musical and even a mime show starring Marcel Marceau. On film there have been at least 28 versions of the story and dozens more for television. This week the Reel Guys have a look at the best big screen versions of the classic story.



► A Christmas Carol remains a popular story to put to film — with at least 28 versions out there.

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN

SCENE@METRONews.ca



Bah, humbug!

- Sim, Murray and Carrey have all played the miser who finds redemption
- Crouse and Breslin debate the best movie version of A Christmas Carol

Richard: Mark, there is only one must-see out of all the dozens of film and TV versions of the Charles Dickens classic and that's the 1951 Alastair Sim version. Nearly perfect in every way, it is a tale of redemption that confirms the fundamental spiritual nature of Christmas itself. In other words, it makes us feel good. Accept no substitutes. If, however, you've already seen it this year or you're allergic to black and white movies, there are alternatives.

MB: Richard, you are so right. The movie HAS to be in black and white to

make us feel the spirit of Dickensian deprivation. It's the classic. But growing up in a Jewish household, it didn't have any importance to me as a child. I discovered it much later, and was transfixed by its narrative power and perfectly gloomy mood. May I contrast this with the Jim Carrey version? Now that's a movie with no sense of mystery, and a buffoonish interpretation of the lead character. I feel sorry for children who grow up with this bloated, CGI-laden excuse for a classic. Richard, please don't tell me you like it!

RC: Before I saw the Jim Carrey version of A Christmas Carol I wondered why remake a story that has been done so often and so well in the past. I've seen it and I'm still wondering. The weirdly lifeless animation was creepy, akin to a Christmas story performed by zombies.

MB: Let me praise Bill Murray's version Scrooged. It's far from authentic, light years away from Dickens, but it makes its points in a very modern way. Bill Murray is great in it, and the writing is sharp and satirical. Setting it in the milieu of the television industry

obviously changes the mood of the original, but as long as you see the movie as an interesting and successful riff upon the original story, and not as a substitute for it, it's a great movie for the season.

RC: I agree. It's become a must see for me every year. Although I don't have to see The Muppets Christmas Carol every year, it is a treat to see Michael Caine as Scrooge. I also like the musical Scrooge with Albert Finney in the lead.

MB: I've never seen it! I sure hope they gave Tiny Tim a tap solo.

Scene in brief



If you're experiencing a joy overload on Christmas Day, revel in some apocalyptic fare at the movie theatre. The Darkest Hour opens Dec. 25. The film follows five people in Moscow fighting an alien race who have attacked Earth via our power supply.

METRO



oo-who? Daniel Craig excels away from Bond, adds second franchise with Dragon Tattoo

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Top 5 actors to watch next year...

DOUGLAS BOOTH

Could the role of Romeo in the latest *Romeo and Juliet* turn Booth into another Leonardo DiCaprio? With a second starring role alongside Disney princess-turned-stoner Miley Cyrus in *LOL...*, well, look at the kid's hair. It's a little like Leo.



MICHAEL FASSBENDER

We're not going to hide our partiality to this Irish-German export, 34, who was ubiquitous in 2011 with an impressive four releases, including *X-Men: First Class* and *Jane Eyre*. His upcoming spy flick with director Steven Soderbergh, *Haywire* (Jan. 20), combined with all the awards-season buzz he's been getting for his performance in 2011's *Shame* will propel Fassbender to A-List by the time his sci-fi film *Prometheus*, a semi-sequel to *Alien*, is released in the summer (June 8).



CHRIS DIAMANTOPOULOS

We finally learned how to spell Galifianakis, so it's about time another comedic actor with an impossibly lengthy Greek last name take the scene by storm. Audiences first got to meet D-what's-his-face on the American sitcom *Up All Night* but the Greco-Canadian actor will get even more exposure this spring (April 13) with the release of *The Three Stooges*, in which he plays Moe, the only Stooge with a passable haircut.

TAYLOR KITSCH

The *Friday Night Lights* star appears in two huge movies this summer: the sci-fi epic *John Carter*, set on Mars, and *Battleship*, a sci-fi version of the popular board game. Finally, he'll be known for something more than his abs.



JOSH HUTCHERSON

This 19-year-old actor has been working steadily in Hollywood, but it'll be the March 23 release of the highly anticipated film adaptation of *The Hunger Games* that makes him a star. While we can't prom-

ise he'll be the next Robert Pattinson — sorry, RPatz will always have a special vampire lair in our hearts — the series' rabid fanbase will give Hutcherson a fast pass to megastardom. Especially because it's a romantic lead. (For younger kids, he's also in 2012's *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island*.)

RICHARD ROEPER

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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Montreal, Quebec – One fun thing leads to another as the shockingly powerful, ridiculously fuel-efficient 2012 Chevrolet Sonic hatch and sedan hit the downtown streets. As for sibling rivalry? Let's just say it's a good thing they're both confident in the looks department.



1. Removed street sign above the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic 5-door. 2. Removed building decor from right side of corner building. 3. Changed colour of building sign to yellow. 4. Added stripe to sweater. 5. Added a sign onto the patio wall. 6. Switched the direction of the patio lamp above the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic 5-door. 7. Removed building decor from right side of corner building. 8. Removed a green flag from the hanging line. 9. Added building decor to left side of corner building. 10. Removed streetlight from right side of image.



DRIVING OUR WORLD FORWARD

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Top 5 ladies to look out for

GINA CARANO

How does a mixed martial-artist end up as the lead in a Steven Soderbergh indie spy thriller? And with a supporting cast that includes acting heavyweights Ewan McGregor, Michael Fassbender and Michael Douglas? She kicks ass, obviously.



Did you know?

"It's so satisfying watching her beat the (expletive) out of the cast," Soderbergh told The

Playlist blog about Carano.

He caught her on TV one night and thought, Why has no one made a movie with her?

ELIZABETH OLSEN

The Olsen Twins' younger sister got a major headstart in 2011 with her impressive performance in indie cult film Martha Marcy May Marlene and this thoughtful, wide-eyed actress will continue the momentum with Liberal Arts, written and directed by How I Met Your Mother star Josh Radnor. She'll also appear in the horror flick Silent House (March 9) and paranormal thriller Red Lights alongside Robert De Niro and Cillian Murphy.



LILY COLLINS

The spawn of Sussudio impresario Phil Collins already had her coming out party in 2011 with roles in Abduction and Priest. This year the 22-year-old has a starring role in Tarsem Singh's lighthearted take on the Snow White fairytale in Mirror Mirror (March 16th) co-starring Julia Roberts, along with prominent roles in The English Teacher co-starring Julianne Moore and sci-fi film The Mortal Instrument.

ANDREA RISEBOROUGH

Thank the Material Girl herself, Madonna, for bringing this English Rose to the forefront in 2012. Riseborough will start off the year with her lauded performance in Madge-directed feature W.E. (Feb. 3) as controversial paramour to King Edward the 8th, Wallis Simpson. She'll stay at the forefront with IRA thriller Shadow Dancer, as well as Disconnect, co-starring True Blood babe Alexander Skarsgard and Jason Bateman — finishing it off with English crime thriller Welcome to the Punch.



TAYLOR SCHILLING

Oh, to star in a Nicholas Sparks book adaptation. Though she may've been the lead in failed TV show Mercy and dead-on-arrival Atlas Shrugged: Part One as lead character Dagny Taggart, somebody in Hollywood has some faith in this American 27-year-old. She's been cast opposite Zac Efron in The Lucky One (April 20), a romance about an Iraq war veteran who goes in search of the woman whose photo became his good luck charm while fighting in the war. Schilling will also star in Ben Affleck-directed political thriller Argo in 2012.



ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR

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The Dark Knight Rises

We're just as curious to see how Christopher Nolan rounds out his trilogy of Batman films — he insists this is the final chapter — as we are to see if *The Dark Knight Rises* can come close to matching the \$1 billion that 2008's *The Dark Knight* pulled in worldwide. Christian Bale is back as Batman, along with Michael Caine as Alfred and Gary Oldman as Commissioner Gordon, and for this go round they're joined by newcomers Tom Hardy (as Bane) and Catwoman Anne Hathaway. Due in July. **NED EHRBAR**



Brave

Pixar seemed to take 2011 off with *Cars 2* — while it would've been fine for most animation studios, it wasn't quite up to Pixar standards — but the company behind *Toy Story* and *Up* looks to return to form with their latest, the Scotland-set *Brave*. The film is about a feisty lass (Kelly Macdonald) looking to slay dragons and undue a curse to save her people. Due in June.



► *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* is probably the most anticipated film of 2012. Peter Jackson and old friends reunite in this prequel, which is due in December.

Year of the superhero?

► From comic book films to literary adaptations, 2012 looks very promising



The Avengers

After great turns in their own films in 2011, Captain America (Chris Evans) and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) join up with Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) for the ensemble flick.

Marvel Studios has been building to the genre with a big, spooky space flick that ties in somehow to the *Alien* franchise — just don't call it a prequel. And if that's not enough to get you excited, how about a cast including Michael Fassbender, Charlize Theron and Idris Elba? Due in June.



Prometheus

While he's gone off to make all sorts of different types of films — most of them starring Russell Crowe — Ridley Scott is still revered for his pair of sci-fi masterpieces, *Alien* and *Blade Runner*. With *Prometheus*, he returns to the genre with a big, spooky space flick that ties in somehow to the *Alien* franchise — just don't call it a prequel. And if that's not enough to get you excited, how about a cast including Michael Fassbender, Charlize Theron and Idris Elba? Due in June.

lo) for the ensemble flick *Marvel Studios* has been building to the genre with a big, spooky space flick that ties in somehow to the *Alien* franchise — just don't call it a prequel. And if that's not enough to get you excited, how about a cast including Michael Fassbender, Charlize Theron and Idris Elba? Due in June.

The Hunger Games and Twilight finale

With the *Twilight* saga wrapping up at the end of 2012, all eyes are on Lionsgate's adaptation of Suzanne Collins' bestselling teen dystopia to fill the void. There are three books in the *Hunger Games* series, but if the first movie is a hit, don't be surprised if the latter chapters start getting split up into multiple films. Jennifer Lawrence stars. Due in March.



Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter and World War Z

In the first, due in June, the secret vampire-slaying past of America's 16th president is revealed. But blood-suckers aren't the only ghouls getting a workout. Based on the bestselling book by Max (son of Mel) Brooks, *World War Z* features Brad Pitt and Lost star Matthew Fox facing the aftermath of a worldwide zombie apocalypse. Fun for the whole family at holiday time! Due in December.



The Amazing Spider-Man


Exactly 10 years after Tobey Maguire first crawled up his first wall, the web-slinger saga is starting over, this time with Andrew Garfield (*The Social Network*) suiting up as *Spider-Man* and director Marc Webb (*500 Days of Summer*) behind the camera. The new version promises to be darker and grittier than the last run, but with *Spider-Man 3* just five years behind it, will audiences be interested in the franchise reboot? Due in July.



Skyfall

After a few financial hiccups on the studio side, James Bond fans rejoiced when the latest 007 adventure — and Daniel Craig's third as the British super-spy — went into production a few weeks ago. We're particularly excited to see what director Sam Mendes does with the revitalized franchise. Due in October.

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Movie reviews

See it twice 🌐🌐🌐🌐 | See it now 🌐🌐🌐 | Worth watching 🌐🌐 | Yawn 🌐 | Don't bother 🌐

**We Bought a Zoo****Genre:** Comedy**Director:** Cameron Crowe**Stars:** Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church

🌐🌐🌐 Cameron Crowe might not seem on surface the first choice for a family friendly comedy, but a closer look at his work — from *Almost Famous* to *Jerry Maguire* — proves otherwise. Crowe's pictures almost always deal with family situ-

ations, mostly unorthodox, but always gripped by truth and sentimentality. His adaptation of the best-selling book, *We Bought a Zoo*, is really just another Crowe joint: melancholy yet joyous, optimistic and truthful. Matt Damon is in fine form as the still-aching widow who moves his two children to a dilapidated country zoo and he's matched by Scarlett Johansen as a feisty zookeeper. **CHRIS ALEXANDER**

**War Horse****Genre:** Drama**Director:** Steven Spielberg**Stars:** Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson

🌐🌐🌐 A book-turned-play-turned Steven Spielberg epic, *War Horse* is a manipulated but multilayered telling of the First World War through the eyes of a tempestuous thoroughbred. Combin-

ing several characters from both sides of the battle, Spielberg overextends his focus on sentimentality but as he's proved in *Saving Private Ryan*, nobody crafts cinematic combat scenes better and the auteur succeeds most notably with a stunningly filmed cavalry charge that outlines the harrowing carnage of war. **STEVE GOW**

**The Artist****Genre:** Drama**Director:** Michel Hazanavicius**Stars:** Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo, John Goodman

🌐🌐🌐 Black and white; silent; set in silent-era Hollywood; and subtitled, *The Artist* may not scream mainstream must see, but it's one of the year's most gloriously memorable films. This French jewel is magical, pure and dreamy on

the surface, blazing emotion and irrevocable change underneath. Dujardin is Valentin, the toast of Tinseltown, a matinee idol who charms the birds out of the fake trees that line Mulholland Drive. But he's about to lose it all if he can't make the cut to sound. *The Artist* feels like a fairy tale, something you're watching in a theatre and it is 1927. **ANNE BRODIE**

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Just because he wears lots of eyeliner...

► Adam Lambert gets into a gay bar brawl in Helsinki

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Well, this is awesome: Former American Idol star Adam Lambert was arrested and briefly jailed in Finland after reportedly getting into a gay bar brawl with his boyfriend, Finnish Big Brother star Sauli Koskinen, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Lambert is in Helsinki to spend Christmas with Koskinen's family, and the couple was out drinking with Finnish beauty queen and ex-Miss Helsinki Sofia Ruusila when an argument between the two men turned violent, causing them to be kicked out of the bar.

Their fight continued in the street, where Lambert reportedly hit Ruusila by mistake, she told a Finnish entertainment channel. Lambert and Koskinen were arrested and questioned for sever-



► Adam Lambert

al hours before being released Thursday afternoon.

Finnish beauty queens, gay bar fights, jail time — and here you thought

you'd have an interesting Christmas break if your mother had two glasses of wine instead of her usual one. Adam Lambert for the win!

Is Jamie Bell looking for a ring?

The rekindled romance must be working, because Jamie Bell and Evan Rachel Wood are reportedly thinking about marriage.

"They have been shopping for rings for at least a month," a source tells Us Weekly.



► Jamie Bell and Rachel Wood

And the two certainly aren't afraid of commitment, as they reportedly got matching tattoos during their initial courtship in 2006.

"Evan and Jamie were really young and just getting going in their careers when they first met and

they just weren't ready," another source tells Radar Online.

"Now that they are older and both excelling in their professional lives, I think they feel ready to take their relationship to the next level."

● METRO

Kutcher moves on

Ashton Kutcher is apparently making the most of his newly single status, as the Two and a Half Men star was spotted hanging out with three young women in Berlin this week, where he's reportedly researching a new business venture, according to Hollyscoop.

Kutcher and the three women were spotted getting into his chauffeur-driven car together, though he was later seen heading into an apartment with just one of them, a brunette.

● METRO



Celebrity tweets

@CarrieFFisher

I'm watching a really relaxing 20-hour show called The Killing. I've been watching it for 3 days. I only have a few days left. It's a Danish show. I should be fluent by Friday. I FEEL fluent. Bloated & fluent.

@kevin_nealon

Kim Jung Un has some small shoes to fill.



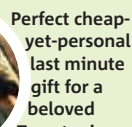
OMG. In my next role I need to speak Chinese! Curious?



@John_Lithgow



Tweeter in your life? Make a book of their Tweets



Beyoncé's house: Xmas TV free

Beyoncé says she and Jay-Z are looking forward to enjoying the holidays free from the glare of television. "I will be with family. We

are both so busy throughout the year that Christmas is just a time to relax with family and count the many blessings in your life," the pregnant pop star says, according to Contact Music.

"Christmas Day is a no-TV zone. We just like to sit and talk together as a family." ● METRO



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Keeping a tab on technology

Flat, hard packages will be welcome this year. Tablet computers are extremely popular, and electronic reading devices such as the Kindle have matured and come down in price.

Which one to get? That's mostly a matter of your budget.

If you have more than \$300 to spend, go for one of these full-size tablets. They have colour screens that are about nine inches diagonally, and they have built-in cameras.

Apple 16GB iPad 2 (\$498.99 at Future Shop)

The device that made tablet computing mainstream still reigns, out-selling all others combined. It's thinner than competing tablets and has access to an unparalleled array of applications: Half a million, of which 140,000 are adapted for the iPad's 9.7-inch screen. That means more good games, more useful reference apps and more entertainment options. The range of third-party book apps also means the iPad beats dedicated e-readers at their own game by giving users the ability to read books purchased from any store.

Sony S1 16GB Tablet (\$399.99 at Best Buy)

There are a slew of tablets from Samsung, Sony, LG and other manufacturers built around Google Inc.'s Android software. From a hardware standpoint, they are not much different from the iPad, though most of them are thicker.

The Tablet S stands out by including an infrared



* A model plays a game on Sony's new Tablet S during a launch event in Tokyo.



* The new Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet.



* The Apple iPad 2.



* The Amazon Kindle Touch 3G.

emitter, which makes it usable as a large universal remote control. It has a 9.4-inch screen, slightly smaller than the iPad's. It runs the latest version of Android, which is specially designed for tablets and is slick.

ASUS 10.1" Eee Pad Transformer, 16GB (\$346 at Wal-Mart)

The Transformer is a rea-

sonably priced Android tablet that doubles as a "netbook," or small laptop, if you buy an accessory keyboard dock for \$109. The keyboard has a touchpad, extra ports and an additional power pack, which prolongs battery life.

For those willing to travel

If you only want to spend \$200 US to \$250 US, go for

one of these e-reader/tablet hybrids, but they aren't yet available in Canada. They add movies, games and other applications to the e-reader's capabilities, so they are not just for bookworms.

Amazon Kindle Fire (\$199 US)

The Fire is Amazon's first colour Kindle. It runs a highly modified, user-

friendly version of Android. The selection of apps is smaller than for other Android tablets, however.

Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet (\$249 US)

The bookstore's answer to the Kindle Fire is an updated version of last year's Nook Color, a solid and successful e-reader. The Tablet has more memory than the Color or the Kindle Fire.

If your budget is limited to \$150, you will be tempted by some low-end colour tablets. But giving one away is like giving away a lump of coal: The colour touch screens that go into sub-\$200 devices look bad and have problems responding to fingers.

Instead, get one of these lightweight, quality e-readers with black-and-white "electronic ink" screens for the bookworm in your life

Amazon Kindle Touch 3G (\$149 US)

Amazon still has a variety of monochrome Kindles, including its first touch-screen model. The screen is more legible than colour screens in bright daylight and uses very little power. But it's slow to respond, making navigation tedious.

Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch (\$99 US)

This slim, light e-reader is very similar to the \$99 non-3G Kindle Touch. Barnes & Noble's version has two advantages: It doesn't display advertising, and it can load books from other bookstores, including Google Books. It can't load Kindle books, though.

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2
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days left

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Seasonal Cheer



► Your wine and spirits guide



PETER ROCKWELL

LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

Buying a bottle of booze as a gift is easy, right?

Buying the right bottle; now there's the challenge. Whether you have a wine, beer or spirit lover on your list one of these liquid gems is guaranteed to please.

White Owl Whisky (\$34.95-\$39.99)

Sure, while Canadian spirits are usually brown, this unique

blend of aged whiskies is filtered clear without losing any of its rich, rounded flavours.



St-Germain Liqueur (\$44.42-\$59.99)

This wine lover's liqueur is made with French hand-picked elderflower blossoms. Soft and refreshing, it's a perfect ingredient for champagne

cocktails on Christmas morning.

Masi 2007 Costasera Amarone Classico (\$38.95-\$49.99)

Is there a red wine that appeals to every palate? I say it's Amarone. Made with dried grapes it's the ideal conversation vino that speaks volumes all by itself.

Crystal Head Vodka (\$44.98-\$59.95)

OK, a skull-shaped bottle may not scream happy holidays, but this diamond-filtered neutral spirit — designed by Ghostbuster Dan Aykroyd — will add some seasonal magic

to any vodka cocktail.

Veuve Clicquot Brut Champagne Ice Jacket (\$65.15-\$69)

Veuve's non-vintage yellow-labelled bubbly is a standard. Add a neoprene slip cover that will keep the passion juice cold for up to two hours and you are talking perfection.

St-Rémy à la Crème Liqueur (\$24.85-\$28.98)

Cream liqueurs are a holiday essential and this one

— made with a base of St-Rémy brandy — has a sexy creaminess that marries perfectly with its smooth alcohol base.

Skate Whisky (\$49.98-\$49.99)

You will score with any Canadian whisky loving hockey fan gifting this spirit that's smooth and subtle on the inside and classically kitschy (in a good way) on the outside.



Wychood Bah Humbug Christmas Ale (\$3.50-\$5.29)

Ebenezer Scrooge's sour puss may be on the label, but this malty English ale will have the beer fans carolling.

The Kraken Black Spiced Rum (\$26.99-\$34.99)

Eggnog, meet your match. Dark, black and spicy, The Kraken unleashes major flavours that are exceptionally mixable and darn tasty on their own, too.

Taylors Fladgate Scion Tawny Port (\$3,495.99)

The wine for this once-in-a-lifetime tippie has been aged in barrels since 1855. Thought to be the last of its kind, there is no better way to say Merry Christmas.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



Clockwise from top: St-Germain Liqueur; Masi 2007 Costasera Amarone Classico; The Kraken Black Spiced Rum; St-Rémy à la Crème Liqueur; Crystal Head Vodka; Skate Whisky; White Owl Whisky; and Taylors Fladgate Scion Tawny Port.

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PGT Tigereye Jacket, Cheetah Front, \$150, available at O'Neill Canada, oneillshop.ca/en.



PGT Jewel Pant, Blazing Yellow, \$100, available at O'Neill Canada, oneillshop.ca/en.

For the little sport



Firefly Boy's Delimit Snowboard Package \$249.97 (\$399.97 if purchased separately), available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.



Wayne Gretzky Ornament, a great gift for true Canadian hockey fans, \$24.99, and Don Cherry Bobble-Head, treat the hockey fan in your family with a Grapes bobble-head, \$24.99, both available at select Hallmark stores across Canada.

CCM Vector 4 Pink Helmet, \$44.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.



Crosby SC87 PD Shield Short Sleeve Top, \$24.99, available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.



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Sephora Wild and Chic Aqua Eyes Collection, \$36, sephora.com.



M.A.C Cosmetics Dazzlesphere! Pink Ornament, \$38.50, available at maccosmetics.com.



Victoria's Secret Angel Eau de Parfum, \$45-\$75, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriasssecret.com.



Pink Icicle Lip Gloss, \$30, available at Cake Beauty, cakebeauty.com.

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COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

YOUR SMARTPHONE CAN HELP YOU FINISH YOUR LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING AND MORE!

'Tis the season to be frazzled. Luckily if you're equipped with a smartphone, you have help. While you can use your device to Google nearby stores, videotape holiday concerts or check the weather, there's much more your smartphone can do to help you get things wrapped up before Christmas morning.

THE WISH LIST

Use your Mobility mobile phone's notes option to put together a final list of

items you still need to buy. Or, download the Free Christmas List (Android) or Gift Organizer (\$3.99, BlackBerry) app to keep track. Both apps help organize your list and add in gift ideas, while the Card Star app (free, Android) can help manage your loyalty program cards.

Not sure if that electric drill is a good deal? The *Consumer Reports* Mobile Shopper 2012 app (free, BlackBerry; \$4.89, Android) lets you compare ratings, reviews and feedback on products. Goods are searchable via a database or barcode scan. Better yet, if you have an Android phone, add the Red Laser Barcode & QR Scanner app or the Google Shopper app (both free) to search for deals.

Not sure about a gift? While you can call to discuss gift options over your device, many texting options also allow you to attach pics so your boyfriend can 'yay' or 'nay' that gift for his mom.

GETTING AROUND TOWN

Since you can't surf the web while driving, get one of your passengers to pull up Mapquest on their phone's browser or use their BlackBerry's GPS to help direct you to stores or a holiday party. But did you know that the Android Beat the Traffic app (free) or BlackBerry Traffic (free) app will give you the scoop on what's happening on the roads before you even head out? Once you're close to where you are going, pull over and use the BestParking app (free, Android) to help navigate a parking deal — be it through the nearest location or the cheapest lot available.

ENTERTAINING WAYS

Never sure which Chardonnay to bring to the party? Download Nat Decants Wine Reviews Pairings Recipes (free, BlackBerry)/Natalie Maclean Wine Picks (free, Android) to find out what your sommelier-wannabe boss might

enjoy. Wine expert Maclean offers a guide of wines to bring, and you can even scan a bottle to get a review of tastings and prices.

If you're hosting the party and are in need of a recipe refresher, use your phone to watch your favourite TV chefs cooking up your favourite dish on YouTube. Or, download the Epicurious Recipe app (free, Android)/Food Network Canada Mobile (free, BlackBerry) for recipes available through searchable databases.

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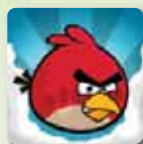
Bye-bye bulky video cameras! Most new smartphones come equipped with cameras and video cameras that capture share-worthy memories. Any last minute holiday greetings you need to send? The Canada Post app (free, Android/BlackBerry) offers some holiday card help — it can turn a photo on your phone into a postcard Canada Post will print and mail for you.

ENJOY THE SEASON WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE

The line-ups just before Christmas can be unbelievable, and with kids in tow, you'd better find a way to keep them busy. Hand the kids your mobile phone or suggest they use their own to try a few games of Solitaire. Better yet, download one of these apps to reduce stress and have a bit of fun!

ANGRY BIRDS SEASONS ANDROID - FREE

Gingerbread cookies and candy canes have invaded this holiday version of the über-popular game app.



PET ELF ANIMATED CHRISTMAS ELEPHANT BLACKBERRY - FREE

This cute and confused



little elephant is convinced he's a reindeer and takes a run at your phone screen.

TALKING SANTA ANDROID - FREE

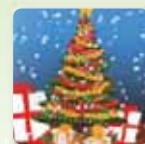
Much like the Talking Tom Cat that might already have a place in your phone, Talking Santa repeats after you, enjoys being tickled, and is pretty



thankful when you feed him milk and cookies.

CHRISTMAS SNOW GLOBE 2.0 ANDROID - FREE

Have good, mindless fun with this app, which lets you start the snow by giving your phone a little shake.



2 MORE DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS

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Take home a Huawei U2801 or LG Wink mobile phone from Mobilicity for just \$49.99. These two phones are both super affordable and super fun.

All the basics are covered in the Huawei U2801. With a slim and easy-to-use design, the phone features a VGA camera, Bluetooth, email clients, as well as an FM Radio, music player and voice recorder.

The LG Wink is all about style and connectivity. It has a 2-inch screen as well as Stereo Bluetooth, an MP3 player, a 1.3 Megapixel camera with 2x zoom, and an expandable memory — up to 16GB.



Huawei U2801



LG Wink

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You can also receive entries into the Grand Prize Draw by liking Mobilicity's Facebook page, sharing the contest with your friends, or

posting a message as your status update on Facebook.

Be sure to enter your PIN online to see if you are an instant winner and enter the Grand Prize Draw! The contest closes on Dec. 24 @ 11:59 p.m. The draw will be held Jan. 16, 2012.

Visit christmas.mobility.ca for all the details.

Season's eatings



Baker Street Whoopies, \$1.99 per whoopie, available nationally at retailers including Longo's, Metro, Loblaws, Sobeys, Sumerhill, Pusateri's and Garden Fresh Market.



PC Milk Chocolate Covered Butter Toffee with Roasted Almonds, \$7.99, available where **President's Choice** products are sold, presidentschoice.ca.



Sweet Charity Tinned Peppermint Bark, \$9.99, available at **Winners**, winners.ca.



Tim Hortons Double Double Coffee Flavour Chocolate Truffles, \$5.95, available at **Tim Hortons**, timhortons.com.

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Offer ends December 31, 2011. Available within network coverage areas available from Bell Mobility. Paper bill charge (\$2/mo.) applies unless you register for e-bill and cancel your paper bill. Other monthly fees, e.g., 911 (New Brunswick: \$0.53, Nova Scotia: \$0.43, P.E.I.: \$0.50, Quebec: \$0.40, Saskatchewan: \$0.62) apply. A one-time device activation fee (\$35) applies. Upon early termination, price adjustments apply; see your Service Agreement for details. 30 days advance notice of termination required where not prohibited by law. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. (1) With new activation on a 3-yr. term on a post-paid voice and data plan or a post-paid voice plan and a data feature with a min. value of \$50/mo. Galaxy is a registered trademark of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. Google and Nexus are registered trademarks of Google, Inc.



Skillet Street Food Bacon Jam, \$19.95 for a 300g container, available at fine food stores. A list of retail stores can be found at skilletstreetfood.com.

Peanut Butter Cups with Fleur De Sel, \$20, available at **Indigo**, chapters. indigo.ca.



Starbucks VIA Ready Brew Holiday Gift Set, \$14.95, available at **Starbucks**, starbucks.ca.



Chocolate Boxes from Hudson's Bay Company Confectionery, \$8.99 each, available at **The Bay**, thebay.com.

PC Mini Biscotti Assortment, \$9.99, available where

President's Choice products are sold, presidentschoice.ca.



Kensington Classic Hamper, \$125, available at **Crabtree & Evelyn**, crabtree-evelyn.com.

Perfect turkey supporters



PETER ROCKWELL
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As sure as the Grinch stole Christmas, it's a given that we'll all receive at least one bottle of wine as a gift from a co-worker, guest or neighbour over the holiday season.

In my house, I pick the wines that go with Xmas dinner so — while much appreciated — anything that shows up at the door goes into the wine rack for future enjoyment.

Of course, considering how my family can plow through my wine selection, it would be nice if more of the freebies came with a roast turkey match in mind.

For reds, bring a plump New World pinot noir from California or Canada, a chocolaty old vines zinfandel (also from Cali.) or, for a slightly unconventional Old World partner, a Crianza or Reserva from Spain's Rioja region.

On the white side, think a not so oaky chardonnay from Australia or Chile, a German riesling or a rich, multi-blend like the ripe, refreshing cornucopia of grape flavours (five in all) that is California's Caymus 2009 Cordonium (\$23.95 - \$29.99).

Happy holidays! **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**



Happy healthy holidays

► This Beef Wellington contains just 11 grams of fat and 328 calories

Preparation:

- Heat oven to 190 C (375 F). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Season beef liberally with salt and pepper.
- In sauté pan over medium-high, heat olive oil. When oil just smoking, add beef. Brown on all sides, 1 to 2 minutes per side. Once browned, remove beef and place on a rack to rest.
- Add garlic to hot pan and cook until lightly browned, 20 seconds. Add mushrooms and onion and cook until soft and tender and all liquid has evaporated, 10 mins. Season with salt and pepper and add 10 ml (2 tsp) of the thyme.
- Set aside 50 ml (1/4 cup) of mushroom-onion mix. Transfer rest to food processor and pulse to roughly chop until reduced to 5-mm (1/4-inch) pieces. Transfer to bowl and refrigerate 5 mins. Once slightly cooled, add spinach and egg whites and mix well.
- In bowl, stir pancake mix with just enough water, about 75 ml (1/3 cup), to moisten and make dough that holds together but is not sticky. On lightly floured surface, roll dough to a thin rectangle that is 5 cm (2 inches) longer than the beef roast. Place beef on dough. Spoon spinach and mushroom mix on



► This recipe serves eight.

top and sides of beef and pat down tightly. Fold dough up and over top of beef and spinach and crimp seams together.

- Place meat, seam side down, on baking sheet. Cut slits in top to vent. Bake 40 mins. or until centre registers 60 C (140 F). Remove from oven, cover with foil and let rest for 10 minutes.

- Meanwhile, place 2 of porcini chunks in a spice grinder and grind to fine powder. Place mushroom powder, remaining

whole porcini mushroom chunks and shredded jerky in a microwave-safe bowl with 500 ml (2 cups) of water. Microwave high until water is simmering. Let sit for 5 minutes and repeat.

- Pour Madeira into small saucepan over medium heat. Bring to boil and boil 5 mins. or until reduced by half. Pour dried mushroom and beef broth through fine mesh strainer into Madeira while pushing on jerky and mushrooms to extract as much liquid

Ingredients:

- 900 g (32 oz) beef tenderloin, centre cut, trimmed of all visible fat
- Salt and black pepper
- 7 ml (1/2 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 285 g (10 oz) button mushrooms, sliced
- 250 ml (1 cup) diced onion
- 12 ml (2 1/2 tsp) thyme
- 1 pkg (284 g/10 oz) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 2 egg whites, beaten
- 400 ml (1 2/3 cups) Bisquick Heart Smart Pancake and Baking Mix
- 5 chunks dried porcini mushrooms
- 22 ml (3/4 oz) beef jerky, finely shredded
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) Madeira
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) arrowroot powder
- 10 ml (2 tsp) soy sauce

as possible. Remove whole pieces of porcini mushrooms and roughly chop; set aside. Discard jerky. Bring broth and Madeira mix to a boil.

- In bowl, combine arrowroot and 60 ml (4 tbsp) cold water. Mix and add to simmering sauce. Cook and stir 1 min or until sauce thickens. Add soy sauce, remaining thyme, reserved porcini and reserved mushroom and onion mix. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Slice roast into 8 even slices and arrange on a platter. Serve with sauce. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO**

3
life

Tenderloin Tip



The cut of meat in this recipe is very important. When you head to the meat counter, be sure to specify that you want a centre-cut tenderloin. This will ensure that you don't get a roast that contains several pieces of tenderloin pressed together.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Some common sense can help keep food healthy and safe during the festive season

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4

sports

Quoted



"This year is a whole new group of guys, new faces, new team and everything like that. There's enough motivation just being here. We're all here to win gold and that's the bottom line."

CANADIAN JUNIOR TEAM
CAPTAIN JADEN SCHWARTZ



► Edmonton's Ryan Jones checks Minnesota's Marek Zidlicky at Rexall Place on Thursday night.

Oilers winners going into holiday break

► Eberle, Smyth and Petrell score as Edmonton returns to winning ways

Jordan Eberle scored a pair of goals as the Edmonton Oilers snapped a four-game losing skid, defeating the Minnesota Wild 4-1 on Thursday night.

Ryan Smyth and Lennart Petrell also scored for the Oilers (15-16-3), who had won just two out of their last 11 games coming into the contest.

Dany Heatley replied for the Wild (20-11-5), who have now lost six games in a row on the heels of a seven-game winning streak.

The Oilers dodged an early bullet as a Clayton

4	1
OILERS	WILD

Stoner blast rang off the post behind starter Nikolai Khabibulin just over a minute into the game.

Edmonton started the scoring with four minutes remaining in the first period as Eberle put forward a tremendous individual effort on the power play,

4 Eight minutes into the second, the Oilers had four goals while the Wild had only four shots.

stopping a clearing attempt, making a toe-drag move to throw off a defender and then sending a wrist shot past Wild goalie Niklas Backstrom for his 14th of the season.

Edmonton made it 2-0 with a minute and a half to play in the first as Smyth attempted a wrap-around shot and got a couple more whacks at it to lodge the

puck from between Backstrom's skate and the post and into the net. It was also Smyth's 14th of the year, ending an 11-game scoring drought.

The Oilers went up 3-0 early in the second period as Petrell stripped the puck from Jeff Taffe and picked the top corner with a slap-shot for a short-handed goal.

Less than two minutes later, the Oilers went up 4-0 as Eberle picked up a loose puck in the slot and beat Backstrom with a backhand. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

World junior gold 'earned, not given'

Canada is again a contender for gold at the world junior hockey championship, but the host country will have to fight off stiff challenges from the United States, Russia and Sweden.

Canada opens the 2012 world junior tournament Sunday in Edmonton against Finland, a dark horse in the race for gold.

Canadian teams have reached the final of this tournament every year for the last decade and won half of them. Fair or not, Canadians have come to depend on seeing their country in the championship game.

So the biggest challenge Canada's 2012 edition faces is avoiding a sense of entitlement in this tournament.

On the back of the players' T-shirts during selection camp in Calgary earlier this month was the slogan "earned, not given."

"There's no rule that we deserve gold every year," Canadian head coach Don Hay said. "Other countries want it too and there's other countries that believe they play the right way."

After a run of five straight gold, Canada lost in overtime to the U.S. in the 2010 final in Saskatoon and spectacularly collapsed in the 2011 final in Buffalo, N.Y., when Russia scored five unanswered goals in the third period to win 5-3.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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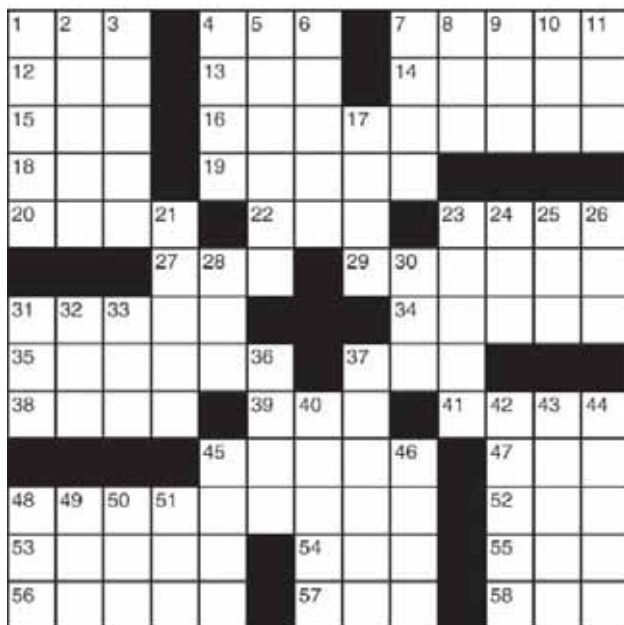
Crossword

Across

- 1 Hot tub
4 Physicist's deg.
7 Cut in two
12 Chop
13 Scrooge's cry
14 Crosswise, nautically
15 Historic time
16 Four-line verses
18 Atmosphere
19 Seafood entree
20 Dog bane?
22 Very long time
23 Former frosh
27 Needlefish
29 There
31 Perfect
34 Perspectives
35 With 48-Across, "Family Feud" material
37 Bankroll
38 Oliver Twist's request
39 Clean Air Act org.
41 Send forth
45 Pilfered
47 Inseparable
48 See 35-Across
52 "Monty Python" opener
53 Pianist Eubie
54 Young seal
55 Prepared
56 Disrobe
57 Pigpen
58 Attempt

Down

- 1 Wheat bundle
2 Danger
3 Cognizant
4 Cookouts, for short
5 UFO, maybe



- 6 Guitarist once wed to Xavier Cugat
7 Difficult
8 "The — Daba Hon-ey-moon"
9 Island garland
10 Forefront
11 Typog-raphy units
17 Broadway prize
21 Tequila source
23 Insinuating
24 "— on a Grecian Urn"
25 Church seat
26 Storefront sign abbr.

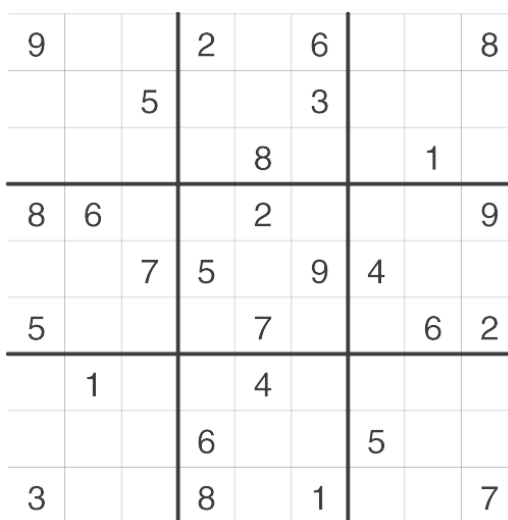
- 28 Hearty brew
30 Eggs
31 Doctrine
32 Pair with an air
33 Mess up
36 Abominable Snow-man
37 Reddish brown
40 Tires (out)
42 Wettish
43 Bury
44 Irascible
45 Dance lesson
46 Catch sight of
48 Brady and Brees, for ex.

- 49 Last (Abbr.)
50 Listener
51 Tackle moguls

▶ Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

8	3	5	6	2	7	1	9	4
1	2	9	3	8	4	6	5	7
6	4	7	5	1	9	3	8	2
4	1	8	9	5	6	7	2	3
7	6	3	8	4	2	5	1	9
9	5	2	1	7	3	4	6	8
2	9	6	4	3	1	8	7	5
3	8	1	7	9	5	2	4	6
5	7	4	2	6	8	9	3	1

A look at the weather

TODAY
Min -2°
Max 4°

SATURDAY
Min 0°
Max 4°

SUNDAY
Min -2°
Max 7°

Michele McDougall
Weather Specialist

"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes". WEEKDAYS 5:30 A.M.



Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will be thinking a lot about your work and your reputation over the next few days.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If someone says you should not be concerned about what is going on in your immediate environment that means you should be very concerned indeed.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 It would appear that you have been worrying about your money situation for no good reason.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You are in two minds whether to get in-

volved in a feud that is really none of your business.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 This is the ideal time to think of ways to reduce your chores and improve your health.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Your confidence is improving by the hour.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You may find it hard to ask for assistance but ask you must because if you go it alone over the holiday period you could find yourself in a bit of a muddle.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The approaching new moon makes it

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

easier for you to express yourself — and easier for others to understand what it is you are trying to say.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Good news from afar will cheer you up today.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You are on the cusp of a positive phase.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Don't snap at people who try to cheer you up — they mean well.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. This is a good day to contact friends and relatives and plan a get-together.

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will be thinking a lot about your work and your reputation over the next few days.

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Caption contest



"I seem to be going around in circles."
CAROL-FAYE

MUSADEQ SADEQ/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



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